

MUSIC AT HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH – MASON CITY, IOWA

ADULT CHOIR*:

This choir accepts singers, grades 9 through Adult, who are interested in a large choir, with an emphasis in sectional singing (soprano, alto, tenor, bass). Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. This choir sings at 3 weekend Masses per month, October through April.

YOUTH CHOIR:

This is a ministry for youth from grades 7 through 12. This is a wonderful opportunity for high school musicians to play their instruments, including guitar and percussion! This choir sings every 2nd Sunday of the month at the 10:00 am Mass. Rehearsals take place one hour before that Mass.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR:

This choir accepts children from 1st through 6th grade. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to learn about how we worship as Catholics and about God's love. Rehearsals take place prior to Advent to prepare for the Christmas Eve celebration.

CONTEMPORARY CHOIR: yet to be formed!

This group of musicians specializes in the performance of recently composed music for choir and instruments. Here you will find a combination of guitar, drum, acoustic bass, piano and solo saxophone alongside a group of fine singers. This choir will rehearse and sing once or twice per month as determined by the group.

CANTOR/ SMALL ENSEMBLE/ ACCOMPANIST:**

This ministry is for those solo singers/instrumentalists who demonstrate an ability to lead the assembly with their voice/instrument. Cantor rehearses with accompanist before Mass.

*The Adult Choir has completed another season of song and worship at Holy Family. Their participation greatly enhances the liturgical celebration. We are blessed to have a dedicated choir willing to give time and talent, under the direction of Nancy Jasweski and assisted by Mary Hagedorn. Thank you so much!

**Accompanists are needed this summer! Jenny Fandel, keyboardist and organist, will be moving soon. We will miss her musicianship and leadership in worship. May God bless Jenny in her new home.

If you've ever given any thought at all to joining one of the music ministries here at Holy Family, now is the time! People from the community sharing their musical gifts are what make worship a spiritual experience for everyone. If you are interested in joining a music ministry, please contact the office (641) 423-7301, or email Jenny Cooper at cooperc7@gmail.com OR fill in the slip below and return it to the church office.

Name: _____ Phone Number _____ adult student- grade _____

Address: _____ Email Address _____

I am interested in joining one of the music ministries at Holy Family (check your interests)

Adult Choir Youth Choir Children's Choir Contemporary Choir Cantor / Ensemble

Accompanist Keyboard Accompanist Organ Accompanist Guitar Instrument _____

Do you know a musician? Make a recommendation here (include your name above, as a reference):

Name of musician _____ phone number _____

SING TO THE LORD: MUSIC IN DIVINE WORSHIP

-excerpts from this document show why we sing

These guidelines are designed to provide direction to those preparing for the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy according to the current liturgical books (in the ordinary form of celebration).

*“Singing is one of the primary ways that **the assembly** of the faithful participates actively in the Liturgy. The people are encouraged to take part by means of acclamations, responses, psalms, antiphons and hymns. The musical formation of the assembly must be a continuing concern in order to foster full, conscious, and active participation.”*

*“**Choirs and ensembles** comprise persons drawn from the community who possess the requisite musical skills and a commitment to the established schedule of rehearsals and Liturgies. Thus, they are able to enrich the celebration by adding musical elements beyond the capabilities of the congregation alone.” – Sing To the Lord: Music In Divine Worship.*

*“As a leader of congregational song, **the cantor** should take part in singing with the entire gathered assembly. In order to promote the singing of the liturgical assembly, the cantor’s voice should not be heard above the congregation. As a transitional practice, the voice of the cantor might need to be amplified to stimulate and lead congregational singing when this is still weak. However, as the congregation finds its voice and sings with increasing confidence, the cantor’s voice should correspondingly recede. At times, it may be appropriate to use a modest gesture that invites participation and clearly indicates when the congregation is to begin, but gestures should be used sparingly and only when genuinely needed.”*

*“The primary role of the **organist, other instrumentalists**, or instrumental ensemble is to lead and sustain the singing of the assembly and of the choir, cantor, and psalmist, without dominating or overpowering them. The many voices of the organ and of instrumental ensembles, with their great range of expression, add varied and colorful dimensions to the song of the assembly, especially with the addition of harmonization.”*

“Liturgical musicians are first of all disciples, and only then are they ministers. Joined to Christ through the Sacraments of Initiation, musicians belong to the assembly of the baptized faithful; they are worshipers above all else. Like other baptized members of the assembly, pastoral musicians need to hear the Gospel, experience conversion, profess faith in Christ, and so proclaim the praise of God. Thus, musicians who serve the Church at prayer are not merely employees or volunteers. They are ministers who share the faith, serve the community, and express the love of God and neighbor through music.”

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